

# Bald Cypress

*Taxodium distichum*

Bald cypress is a long-lived, deciduous wetland species that grows along rivers, streams, and creeks as well as in swamps with slow moving water. It can live up to 600 years old or more. It is a legendary tree of the Deep South known for its "knees," moss-draped crown, and buttressed trunk. Exfoliating bark is red-brown to silver. As a deciduous conifer, the leaves drop off in autumn, and its cones are round balls that release their seeds in autumn and winter. Cypress domes provide unique shelter for a variety of birds, mammals and reptiles.

## CHARACTERISTICS

**Height:** 50'-70' Some to 100'+

**Width:** 25'-45'

**Identification:** It has a pyramidal-shaped crown when it is young that gradually becomes flat-topped with age. The leaves are deciduous, linear, and spreading 2-ranked like a feather. Each leaf is ½" to ¾" long. The flat needle-like leaves are light yellow-green. Fall foliage is orange to brown. Flowering occurs March-April. The flowers are brown and inconspicuous and not a showy variety. The fruit is a round cone that is about ¾" to 1" in diameter. They are wrinkled, green, and leathery.

## BENEFITS

Bald cypress is a majestic tree with soft, ferny foliage that enhances many landscapes. It is a very popular ornamental tree, grown for its orange-brown fall color which can also range to a dull red. This stately tree makes a good specimen for parks and large lots.

## GROWING CONDITIONS

**Distance from Utility Line:** plant no less than 40' away from overhead lines

**Native Habitat:** Wide range of conditions in Eastern U.S.

**Water use:** Wet or dry. Drought tolerant once established.

**Sun Light:** Sun to partial shade



# How to Plant Containerized Trees

*These instructions are for planting containerized trees or shrubs.*

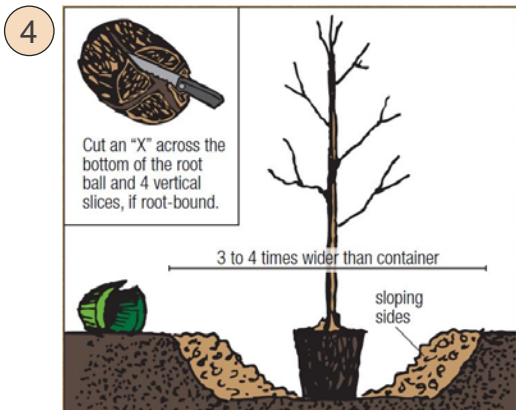


Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

Before digging, call Arkansas One Call at 811 or 800-482-8998 to verify you've chosen a safe location.

To reduce summer cooling costs, plant large deciduous shade trees on the east, west, or southwest sides of your home. Plant evergreens on the north or the side with prevailing winds.

- 1 Dig a hole 3 to 4 times wider than the container. The hole should have sloping sides like a saucer to allow for proper root growth.
- 2 Carefully remove the tree from the container keeping the soil around the roots intact. It helps to tap the outside of the container to loosen the edge. Carefully slide the tree from the container. Don't yank the tree out of the container as this can separate the roots from the tree.
- 3 Sometimes containerized trees become root-bound or the roots look like they're about to circle the root ball. If your tree is like this, cut an X across the bottom of the root ball and four vertical slices along the sides of the root ball with a sharp knife.



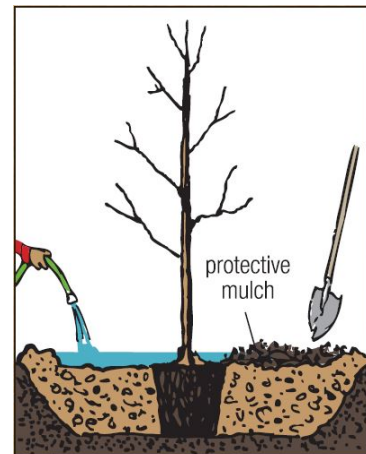
Set the tree in the middle of the hole. Avoid planting the tree too deep. If the root collar sits below the top of the hole, compact some soil under the tree so that the root flare at the

base of the trunk is slightly above ground level. Using some soil, secure the tree in a straight position, then fill and firmly pack the hole with the original soil, making sure there aren't any air pockets. Keep backfilling until the soil is just below the root collar.

- 5 Create a water-holding basin around the hole and give the tree a good watering. After the water has soaked in, spread protective mulch 2-4" deep and level in a 3-foot diameter area around the tree. Keep mulch 2" away from tree trunk.

- 6 The soil and mulch around your trees should be kept moist but not soggy. During dry weather, generously water the tree every 7 to 10 days during the first year. Water slowly at the dripline.

- 7 Remove any tags and labels from the tree as these will affect the tree as it grows. For future pruning info, visit <http://www.arboday.org/trees/pruning/>



**Fertilizer?** *Do not* use fertilizer, potting soil, or chemicals on your newly planted trees.

**Watering:** Keeping your trees watered is important during their first year. Keep the soil and mulch moist but not soggy. In dry weather, you should water generously every 7-10 days. Avoid watering so much that you see standing water.

The Urban Forestry Advisory Board encourages the use of native plants because they tend to grow more easily in local conditions and typically provide the most benefit to local birds, bees, butterflies, and other local wildlife. Search "Why Native Plants" to learn more. The Board also encourages residents to help eliminate invasive plants like privet, bush honeysuckle, and English ivy because they crowd out and inhibit the seasonal transition of native plants on which the local ecosystem depends.

Planting guide adapted from <http://www.arboday.org/trees/planting/>.

Plastic pots may be recycled at Lowe's in Fayetteville.



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[arboday.org](http://arboday.org)

For step by step videos and more planting info  
go to [arboday.org/HowToPlant](http://arboday.org/HowToPlant)